

Licensing Committee

Tuesday, 4th August, 2015

PRESENT: Councillor G Hyde in the Chair

Councillors N Buckley, R Downes, A Khan,
B Selby, C Townsley, G Wilkinson, B Flynn,
M Ingham, S McKenna and A Ogilvie

25 Election Of Chair

In the absence of Councillor Harland, Councillor G Hyde was proposed as Chair for the meeting.

RESOLVED – Councillor G Hyde be elected as Chair for the duration of the meeting.

26 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents

There were no appeals against the refusal of inspection of documents.

27 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED – That in accordance with Regulation 4 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following parts of the agenda designated as exempt on the grounds that it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information so designated as follows:-

- (a) Appendix A to the report entitled, 'Entertainment Licensing Section Update Report – January – June 2015', referred to in Minute No. 35 is designated as exempt from publication in accordance with Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4(1), (2) (3) and (7) in order to receive information from the (Section Head Entertainments Licensing) on recent licensing issues across the city;
- (b) Appendix B to the report entitled, 'Leeds Festival 2015 Update' referred to in Minute No.36 is designated as exempt from publication in accordance with Access to Information Procedure Rule 10.4 (3) and (7) in order to receive information from the festival organiser on specific details relating to ticketing and contractors at the festival.

28 Late Items

There were no late items submitted to the agenda for consideration.

29 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

No declarations were made.

30 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Harland, Gettings, Dunn and G Hussain.

31 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th July 2015 be approved as a correct record.

32 Matters Arising From the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the previous meetings minutes.

33 Activity Update: Taxi and Private Hire Licensing 1st January to 30 June 2015

The Head of Licensing and Registration submitted a report which provided an update with regards to delegated decisions taken by officers.

Members discussed complaints received between 1st January – 30th June 2015. Specific issues included the:

- Meaning of “Breach of Licensing Conditions”; and
- Whether inappropriate behaviour could include circumstances where the driver is temporarily away from his/her vehicle, Officers confirmed that this could be looked into.

Whilst discussing driver suspensions Members considered those relating to drug offences and established that they related to a mixture of supply and use of drugs. Members also noted that “Plying for Hire” suspensions had reduced significantly, and reason for this could potentially be explained by a period when there staffing capacity issues which has now is now being addressed.

Members considered the issues surrounding taxi drivers parking illegally whilst waiting for fares. Officers present informed Members that this was an issue for Parking Services and that information would be circulated to Members outside the meeting. Furthermore Members requested that a report be brought to the next meeting of this Committee giving consideration to the use of taxi ranks and parking enforcement by Officers from those responsible departments

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the contents of the report be noted;
- (b) That information relating to parking enforcement on the city’s streets be provided to the Members of the Committee
- (c) That a report relating to parking enforcement and taxi ranks in the City Centre be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee.

34 Information Report :- The emergence of the 'App' booking facility for the Taxi & Private Hire Services

The Head of Licensing and Registration submitted a report on available technology and how it fits in with legislation around Taxi and private Hire.

Members discussed the conditions relating to telephone voice recording of bookings applied to Private Hire Operators and the exception to this condition that had been made for those Private Hire Operators who make use of apps.

Also discussed was the market share of apps, Members noted that there would likely always be a need for a local Private Hire Operator to accept bookings without the use of an app.

Members raised concerns about new legislation which would allow Private Hire Operators to sub contract outside of their district. Members viewed the safety of the public to be a priority when new legislation comes into force.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the report be noted.

35 Entertainment Licensing Section - Update Report - January - June 2015

The Head of Licensing and Registration submitted a report which informed the Committee of matters appertaining to the entertainment licensing section during the last six month period.

Members specifically asked about recent applications considered by Licensing sub-committee and the impact of the CIP red Zone with regard to such applications. It was explained by the officer present that one was a food led restaurant and the other was a re-fit of an existing premises.

Members also discussed what if any monitoring was being done at temporary outdoor events where alcohol was being sold to prevent drink driving at the end of these events. Members were informed of personal responsibilities of those consuming and providing alcohol, and any issues arising involving drink driving would be monitored and referred by the West Yorkshire Police. It was agreed that that contact would be made with West Yorkshire Police to establish if there had been any incidents following two recent events held under Temporary Event Notices..

Following consideration of Appendix A to the submitted report, designated as exempt from publication under the provisions of Access to Information Procedure Rules 10.4(1) (2) (3) and (7), which was considered in private at the conclusion of the meeting, it was:

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the contents of the report be noted;
- (b) That officers look into large outdoor temporary events where alcohol is sold to establish whether there are any agency concerns for drink driving, and that the findings be circulated to Members of this Committee.

36 Leeds Festival 2015 Update

The Head of Licensing and Registration submitted a report which advised the Committee of the progress of the multi-agency meetings and the Event Management Plan for the 2015 Annual Festival.

The Committee heard from the Festival organiser who informed the Committee about the expected number of attendees and the pricing strategy for day tickets and tickets for camping.

Members discussed whether the additional day tickets would have any impact on local transport routes. Members were informed that arrangements had been made with transport operators and there should be no evident impact.

Following consideration of Appendix B to the submitted report, designated as exempt from publication under the provisions of Access to Information Procedure Rules 10.4 (3) and (7), which was considered in private at the conclusion of the meeting, it was:

RESOLVED –

- (a) That delegated authority be given to the Head of Licensing and Registration to approve the Event Management Plan prior to the start of the event; and
- (b) That delegated authority be given to the Head of Licensing and Registration to approve any minor amendments to the Event Management Plan prior to the start of the event.

37 Licensing Committee Work Programme 2015/16

Members considered the contents of the Licensing Committee Work Programme for 2015/16.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the Licensing Committee Work Programme for 2015/16 be approved.

38 Date and Time of Next Meeting

10:00am Tuesday 8th September 2015